SGCN and Habitat Stressors

Level 1 Threat Energy Production and Mining

Level 2 Threat: Oil and Gas Drilling

Description: Exploring for, developing, and producing petroleum and other liquid hydrocarbons

Species Associated With This Stressor: **Total SGCN: 1: 9 2: 12 3:**

Class ***Actinopterygii*** **(Ray-finned Fishes)** **SGCN Category**

Species: ***Alosa pseudoharengus*** (Alewife) **2**

Severity: Moderate Severity **Actionability:** Actionable with difficulty

Notes: There is potential for offshore oil spills in the Gulf of Maine from tankers. The use of oil dispersants increases the effect on pelagic species by increasing the toxicity of oil gloubules, though the exact effects are not well documented.

Species: ***Thunnus thynnus*** (Atlantic Bluefin Tuna) **2**

Severity: Moderate Severity **Actionability:** Moderately actionable

Notes: Oil drilling in the Gulf of Mexico may impact spawning aggregations if oil spills occur during spawning season (e.g. BP Oil Spill)

Species: ***Gadus morhua*** (Atlantic Cod) **1**

Severity: Moderate Severity **Actionability:** Actionable with difficulty

Notes: There is potential for offshore oil spills in the Gulf of Maine from tankers. The use of oil dispersants increases the effect on groundfish and pelagic species by increasing the toxicity of oil gloubules, though the exact effects are not well documented.

Species: ***Acipenser oxyrinchus*** (Atlantic Sturgeon) **1**

Severity: Moderate Severity **Actionability:** Actionable with difficulty

Notes: There is potential for offshore oil spills in the Gulf of Maine from tankers. The use of oil dispersants increases the effect on pelagic species by increasing the toxicity of oil gloubules, though the exact effects are not well documented.

Species: ***Anarhichas lupus*** (Atlantic Wolffish) **2**

Severity: Moderate Severity **Actionability:** Actionable with difficulty

Notes: There is potential for offshore oil spills in the Gulf of Maine from tankers. The use of oil dispersants increases the effect on groundfish and pelagic species by increasing the toxicity of oil gloubules, though the exact effects are not well documented.

Species: ***Alosa aestivalis*** (Blueback Herring) **1**

Severity: Moderate Severity **Actionability:** Actionable with difficulty

Notes: There is potential for offshore oil spills in the Gulf of Maine from tankers. The use of oil dispersants increases the effect on pelagic species by increasing the toxicity of oil gloubules, though the exact effects are not well documented.

Species: ***Brosme brosme*** (Cusk) **2**

Severity: Moderate Severity **Actionability:** Actionable with difficulty

Notes: There is potential for offshore oil spills in the Gulf of Maine from tankers. The use of oil dispersants increases the effect on groundfish and pelagic species by increasing the toxicity of oil gloubules, though the exact effects are not well documented.

Species: ***Melanogrammus aeglefinus*** (Haddock) **1**

Severity: Moderate Severity **Actionability:** Actionable with difficulty

Notes: There is potential for offshore oil spills in the Gulf of Maine from tankers. The use of oil dispersants increases the effect on groundfish and pelagic species by increasing the toxicity of oil gloubules, though the exact effects are not well documented.

SGCN and Habitat Stressors

Level 1 Threat Energy Production and Mining

Level 2 Threat: Oil and Gas Drilling

Class	*Actinopterygii* (Ray-finned Fishes)	SGCN Category

Species: ***Osmerus mordax*** (Rainbow Smelt) **1**

Severity: Moderate Severity **Actionability:** Actionable with difficulty

Notes: There is potential for offshore oil spills in the Gulf of Maine from tankers. The use of oil dispersants increases the effect on pelagic species by increasing the toxicity of oil gloubules, though the exact effects are not well documented.

Species: ***Acipenser brevirostrum*** (Shortnose Sturgeon) **1**

Severity: Moderate Severity **Actionability:** Actionable with difficulty

Notes: There is potential for offshore oil spills in the Gulf of Maine from tankers. The use of oil dispersants increases the effect on pelagic species by increasing the toxicity of oil gloubules, though the exact effects are not well documented.

Species: ***Pseudopleuronectes americanus*** (Winter Flounder) **2**

Severity: Moderate Severity **Actionability:** Actionable with difficulty

Notes: There is potential for offshore oil spills in the Gulf of Maine from tankers. The use of oil dispersants increases the effect on groundfish and pelagic species by increasing the toxicity of oil gloubules, though the exact effects are not well documented.

Class	*Mammalia* (Mammals)	SGCN Category

Species: ***Balaenoptera musculus*** (Blue Whale) **2**

Severity: Moderate Severity **Actionability:** Moderately actionable

Notes: Seismic exploration and drilling can cause hearing and other damage in marine mammal species, as well as create an environment that is difficult to communicate in, which affects breeding success, etc. It also increases vessel traffic, which causing shipstrike risks, and increases the risk of oil spills. Can work with companies to mitigate some of these by avoiding areas that are frequented by species or timing events to certain times of the year

Species: ***Balaenoptera physalus*** (Finback Whale) **2**

Severity: Moderate Severity **Actionability:** Moderately actionable

Notes: Seismic exploration and drilling can cause hearing and other damage in marine mammal species, as well as create an environment that is difficult to communicate in, which affects breeding success, etc. It also increases vessel traffic, which causing shipstrike risks, and increases the risk of oil spills. Can work with companies to mitigate some of these by avoiding areas that are frequented by species or timing events to certain times of the year

Species: ***Megaptera novaeangliae*** (Humpback Whale) **1**

Severity: Moderate Severity **Actionability:** Moderately actionable

Notes: Seismic exploration and drilling can cause hearing and other damage in marine mammal species, as well as create an environment that is difficult to communicate in, which affects breeding success, etc. It also increases vessel traffic, which causing shipstrike risks, and increases the risk of oil spills. Can work with companies to mitigate some of these by avoiding areas that are frequented by species or timing events to certain times of the year

Species: ***Eubalaena glacialis*** (North Atlantic Right Whale) **1**

Severity: Moderate Severity **Actionability:** Moderately actionable

Notes: Seismic exploration and drilling can cause hearing and other damage in marine mammal species, as well as create an environment that is difficult to communicate in, which affects breeding success, etc. It also increases vessel traffic, which causing shipstrike risks, and increases the risk of oil spills. Can work with companies to mitigate some of these by avoiding areas that are frequented by species or timing events to certain times of the year

SGCN and Habitat Stressors

Level 1 Threat Energy Production and Mining

Level 2 Threat: Oil and Gas Drilling

Class	*Mammalia* (Mammals)	SGCN Category

Species: ***Balaenoptera borealis*** (Sei Whale) **2**

Severity: Moderate Severity **Actionability:** Moderately actionable

Notes: Seismic exploration and drilling can cause hearing and other damage in marine mammal species, as well as create an environment that is difficult to communicate in, which affects breeding success, etc. It also increases vessel traffic, which causing shipstrike risks, and increases the risk of oil spills. Can work with companies to mitigate some of these by avoiding areas that are frequented by species or timing events to certain times of the year

Species: ***Physeter macrocephalus*** (Sperm Whale) **2**

Severity: Moderate Severity **Actionability:** Moderately actionable

Notes: Seismic exploration and drilling can cause hearing and other damage in marine mammal species, as well as create an environment that is difficult to communicate in, which affects breeding success, etc. It also increases vessel traffic, which causing shipstrike risks, and increases the risk of oil spills. Can work with companies to mitigate some of these by avoiding areas that are frequented by species or timing events to certain times of the year

Class	*Reptilia* (Reptiles)	SGCN Category

Species: ***Chelonia mydas*** (Green Seaturtle) **2**

Severity: Moderate Severity **Actionability:** Moderately actionable

Notes: Increases the risk of oil spills. Turtles breathing at the surface during an oil spill can be effected by both coverage of oil and inhalation of fumes.

Species: ***Lepidochelys kempii*** (Kemp's Ridley Seaturtle) **2**

Severity: Moderate Severity **Actionability:** Moderately actionable

Notes: Increases the risk of oil spills. Turtles breathing at the surface during an oil spill can be effected by both coverage of oil and inhalation of fumes.

Species: ***Dermochelys coriacea*** (Leatherback Seaturtle) **1**

Severity: Moderate Severity **Actionability:** Moderately actionable

Notes: Increases the risk of oil spills. Turtles breathing at the surface during an oil spill can be effected by both coverage of oil and inhalation of fumes.

Species: ***Caretta caretta*** (Loggerhead Seaturtle) **2**

Severity: Moderate Severity **Actionability:** Moderately actionable

Notes: Increases the risk of oil spills. Turtles breathing at the surface during an oil spill can be effected by both coverage of oil and inhalation of fumes.

No Habitats Currently Assigned To This Stressor.

SGCN and Habitat Stressors

Level 1 Threat Energy Production and Mining

Level 2 Threat: Oil and Gas Drilling

The Wildlife Action Plan was developed through a lengthy participatory process with state agencies, targeted conservation partners, and the general public. The Plan is non-regulatory. The species, stressors, and voluntary conservation actions identified in the Plan complement, but do not replace, existing work programs and priorities by state agencies and partners.